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Respectfully submitted,

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IN THE CLAIMS

--3. (Amended) A process as claimed in claim 1 [or 2], wherein said starch is a native starch.

4. (Amended) A process as claimed in claim 1 [or 2], wherein said starch is selected from the group consisting of the starch ethers, the starch esters, the oxidized native starch, the oxidized starch ethers and the oxidized starch esters.

5. (Amended) A process as claimed in claim 1 [or 2], wherein an anionic starch is used.

6. (Amended) A process as claimed in claim [5] 1, wherein said anionic starch contains carboxyl, phosphate or sulfate groups or the respective alkali metal or ammonium salts thereof.

7. (Amended) A process as claimed in claim [5 or 6] 1, wherein said anionic starch is carboxyl- and/or carboxylato-containing starch from potatoes, maize, wheat or tapioca.

8. (Amended) A process as claimed in [any of claims 1 to 7] claim 1, wherein said starch is heated in said aqueous medium to 115 - 170°C under superatmospheric pressure.

9. (Amended) A process as claimed in [any of claims 1 to 8] claim 1, wherein said heating of said starch is effected with at least one polymeric cationizer and at least one polymeric drainage aid in a jet cooker at from 120 to 150°C in the course of from 0.01 sec to 30 minutes.

10. (Amended) A process as claimed in [any of claims 1 to 9] claim 1, wherein, based on 100 parts by weight of starch, from 0.1 to 10 parts by weight of at least one polymeric cationizer (a) and from 0.01 to 2 parts by weight of at least one drainage aid (b) are used.

11. (Amended) Reaction products of starch with cationic polymers, obtainable by the process of [claims 1 to 10] claim 1.

12. (Canceled).

13. (New).--

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